



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 25 2008

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Environmental Command
Building E4460
5179 Hoadley Road
Attention IIMAE-PA
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

Dear Sir/Madam:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Army's draft supplemental Program Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS) for Growth and Force Structure Realignment, U.S. Army Pacific (CEQ# 20080190).

In January 2007, the Army completed assessments of how to align its forces in the continental United States to better implement transformation, Army modularity, and support growing mission requirements of the Army. Decisions made in the January 2008 Record of Decision for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment did not include final decisions for stationing and force structure modification needed to support the mission requirements of the Pacific Theater. The draft SPEIS conducts an analysis of alternatives for supporting the growth, realignment, and transformation of the Army to support operations in the Pacific Theater. In an effort to meet these requirements, the SPEIS is focusing on six stationing scenarios. They include stationing of additional Combat Support units with approximately 1,000 Soldiers, Combat Service Support units with approximately 1,000 Soldiers, Combat Support units having approximately 3,000 Soldiers, Combat Service Support units with approximately 3,000 Soldiers, a Fires Brigade having approximately 1,600 Soldiers, and a Combat Aviation Brigade consisting of approximately 2,800 Soldiers. The installations evaluated include Fort Richardson, Alaska; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Schofield Barracks Military Reservation, Hawaii; and Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The draft SPEIS includes the initial analysis of installations, examining their capacity to accommodate different types and combinations of new units and the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of stationing actions in the Pacific Theater. Specifically, it analyzed potential impacts on water, cultural and biological resources, noise, wetlands, soil erosion, housing, construction of new training ranges and infrastructure, changes in the intensity of use of maneuver land and firing ranges, traffic and transportation. It also identified areas that would

require additional analysis, consultation or permitting actions and other activities to avoid, minimize, or reduce impacts to these areas. EPA supports the Army's evaluation of these areas.

Based on the above information, we have no objections to the proposed action and have rated the draft SPEIS as Lack of Objections (LO).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft SPEIS, and look forward to reviewing the final SPEIS related to this project. The staff contact for the review is Candi Schaedle and she can be reached at (202) 564-6121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Susan E Bromm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Susan E. Bromm
Acting Director
Office of Federal Activities